

## ***Glacier National Park***

### ***Tips for a Successful Field Trip***



- ◇ **Protection of Glacier National Park:** In order to have a fun and exciting experience, a firm framework of rules should be discussed in advance. Leave No Trace Principals ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)) should be followed when in the park.
  - Respect both the plants and animals of the park. Harassing animals and picking flowers, pine cones, feathers, and other natural objects in the park are all illegal.
  - Respect the rights of others to enjoy Glacier National Park by refraining from disruptive behavior. Respect each other, the ranger, chaperones, and teachers (walk on trails, keep hands to yourself, wait to talk until the instructor is finished, etc...)
  - Littering! All food and drinks need to be cleaned up after lunch. Additionally, food and gum are prohibited during the program except for designated times.
- ◇ **School Regulations:** Teachers are responsible for making sure that all school system regulations regarding parental permission slips and travel authorization/insurance, etc... are followed.
- ◇ **Clothing:** Remind the students to check the weather for Glacier and bring appropriate clothing. It is always colder and there is more snow in the park than in the valleys. Footwear should be comfortable and appropriate for the weather conditions as well. In the case of cold or damp weather, encourage students to bring extra layers and dry clothes.
- ◇ **Nametags:** For safety and courtesy, the rangers prefer to call the students by name. A single piece of masking tape with the first name written in big letters, works well. If you choose to make name tags as a pre-visit activity, be sure they are easy to read and do not fall off when the students are active.
- ◇ **Groups:** Divide each class into the recommended group sizes for your program before arriving at the park. Assign at least one chaperone to each group. (A typical bus of 40 students would be divided into two groups of 20 students each.)
- ◇ **Lunch Time:** Everyone looks forward to lunch after an exciting morning. Bag lunches are best. Remember, lunches will not be refrigerated so we suggest drinks and sandwiches or other food that does not need to be refrigerated for several hours. Also, having lunches marked or organized for easy distribution will decrease the time spent passing things out and increase the time for learning. Students are responsible for picking up their trash and leaving the eating area clean. Drinks with re-sealable lids are recommended so students can save what they don't finish.
- ◇ **Items to Leave Behind:** Students should not bring CD players, radios, I-pods, cell phones, or money. These items can be lost and may distract students' attention. Adults should also leave cell phones at home (or turned off) during the field trip. Cameras and binoculars will not be needed and may only be brought if they will be used at ranger approved times. Designating one adult as the class photographer and asking them to take pictures throughout the day to share with everyone is a great alternative.
- ◇ **Safety:** An accident can ruin a field trip and jeopardize future ones. Safety is of the utmost importance. Students should stay with adults at all times and groups must have the appropriate number of chaperones.